



DERMATOLOGICAL SURGERY

THE “DERMOHSCOPY” MAPPING: A NEW MAP IN MOHS MICROGRAPHIC SURGERY

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Introduction: Mapping is an essential step during Mohs micrographic surgery (MMS) since it allows tumors seen on histology to be tracked during surgery. Histologic findings are typically correlated to the clinical photo or to the hand-drawn map. Despite the increasing use of dermoscopy as an adjuvant tool to help demarcate basal cell carcinoma margins, creating and documenting a dermoscopic map prior to MMS has only been recently described as “dermohscopy mapping”.

Objective: To compare the number of surgical stages prior to and after the implementation of dermoscopic mapping in MMS for basal cell carcinomas.

Materials and Methods: Retrospective study of a consecutive series of patients submitted to MMS by the same dermatologist, from August 2014 to August 2018. Data was inserted on a database immediately after each surgery. Dermoscopy was mapped as following: after careful evaluation of the tumor with a handheld dermatoscope, tumor borders and 1st stage margins were outlined with a black surgical pen. Next, reference marks were colored similarly to the Mohs map to be drawn (red, blue, green, yellow and black). Dermoscopy photos were then taken with a device that connects the dermatoscope to a camera, allowing its correlation to histology, especially for tumors with positive margins. Statistical analysis was performed using the Mann-Whitney test, with $p < 0.05$.

Results: 253 tumors from 220 patients were included in the study. Prior to the implementation of dermoscopy mapping ($n=108$), the mean number of surgical stages was 1.56, whereas in the group submitted to the technique ($n=145$) it was 1.50 ($p=0.83$).

Conclusions: Although mapping dermoscopy of basal cell carcinomas prior to MMS did not reduce the number of stages in the present study, this simple extra preoperative step allows correlation of histologic and dermoscopic findings in MMS, especially when margins on histology are positive for tumors (“subdermoscopic extension”).

